Dear IPPL Friend,

We have been really busy at Headquarters with our 2010 Members’ Meeting held from 9-11 April. It is lucky it wasn’t held the week later, as the Icelandic volcano eruption would have prevented many overseas speakers from attending.

The meeting was very lively, as we had such great people here from many countries and states. There is no other meeting that remotely resembles the biennial parties at IPPL Headquarters, where the speakers are often accompanied (but not drowned out) by the songs of our 33-member gibbon chorus!

In addition to the members who attended, others sent donations to help with the costs, which we greatly appreciated as airline fares are so high. Fortunately, we were able to house many of the speakers at IPPL’s large residence and in the guest house. Long-time IPPL friend Diane Koosed flew in early and collected several speakers at Charleston Airport. Diane also served as “den mother” to the speakers housed at IPPL. Thank you, Diane!

The first IPPL Members’ Meeting was held in 1990, and meetings have been held every two years since. Ruth Feldman, John McGreal, and I are the only three with perfect attendance records. Dianne Taylor-Snow missed only one, the first one, because she was in Bangkok taking care of six confiscated baby orangutans who became known as “The Bangkok Six.” 2010 is the 20th anniversary of this horrible crime in which several international dealers in several nations were involved (at least one of them, Matthew Block of Miami, was sent to prison for his role in the crime). We at IPPL will never forget these sweet babies: Fossey, Little Ollie, Thomas, Tanya, Bimbo, and Bambi. IPPL identified the conspirators and was awarded a plaque by the Dutch Police League/Interpol for our work on this case.

Best wishes,

Shirley McGreal
Gibby has lived with IPPL for three years. He is one of IPPL’s oldest and sweetest gibbons and is now in his 40s. Soon after he came here, his photo appeared in IPPL News, and we were surprised to receive a phone call from Marianne Crisci of New York enquiring if this could be the same Gibby she had worked with at a New York laboratory that studied primate locomotion. Marianne had been an animal caregiver at the lab.

From what she told me, it was clear that we were talking about the same Gibby! Marianne told me that she had kept a photo of Gibby on her refrigerator over the 14 years since she quit the lab. She told me that Gibby found the studies (in which primates would be anesthetized, have electrodes implanted, be placed in a harness, and encouraged to perform assorted movements while measurements were taken) more and more stressful as he grew older.

She told me that Gibby loved women but hated men and that, on the occasions when he escaped, she ran down the corridor yelling “The Gibster’s Loose! Men, get into your offices and lock your doors!”

Marianne asked if she could come to Summerville and meet Gibby. In April 2010, she and her friend Randie Jaffe arrived for a long weekend in South Carolina. They drove from New York to Summerville in one day and, after a good night’s sleep, went out the next morning to visit Gibby. It took just a brief time for Gibby to recognize his old friends, and he was thrilled. He enjoyed all the admiration and attention. Of course, the other gibbons also got some attention from our visitors. The weekend was over all too soon, but we hope to see Marianne and Randie before too long.

Gibby continues to thrive, and his housing area has now been enriched with a horizontal bamboo ladder (see page 24) built for him by UK member Keri Cairns while stranded at Headquarters due to his and Helen Thirlway’s return flights being cancelled during the travel disruptions caused by the ash from the Icelandic volcano.
The fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) was held in Doha in the Middle Eastern nation of Qatar from 13-25 March 2010. IPPL was represented by Chairwoman Shirley McGreal and Helen Tirlway and Lucy Molleson of IPPL (UK). It was Shirley’s 14th CITES conference and Helen and Lucy’s first.

The member nations of CITES meet every two and a half to three years. As of 1 May 2010, CITES had 175 member nations. The treaty came into force on 1 July 1975. Preliminary negotiations to develop the treaty were held in Washington, DC, and CITES is sometimes known as “The Washington Convention.”

Because CITES is a treaty which nations join, it does not constitute law. Nations are supposed to develop and enforce their own laws to protect species listed on the appendices to the treaty. Laws can be stronger than required by CITES. India and the United States are two examples of nations that have “stricter domestic measures.”

Appendix I lists species that are in danger of extinction and can only be traded in exceptional circumstances. All apes and lemurs and many monkey species are listed on Appendix I.

Appendix II lists species potentially threatened by unregulated trade. Because trade in non-human primates has been heavy because of high demand and high prices, all primate species not listed on Appendix I are listed on Appendix II. No primate can legally travel internationally without a permit.

Appendix III consists of species that a particular country seeks to protect from trade.

Trade in Appendix I species

Trade in Appendix I species requires “double permitting.” First, the would-be importing nation needs to issue a permit. Among other requirements, an Appendix I permit may be issued only if the specimen is not to be used for primarily commercial purposes and if the import will be for purposes that are not detrimental to the survival of the species.

Only after the issuance of an import permit can the exporting nation issue a permit, which must be based on a finding that the specimen was legally obtained and that trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species to which the animal belongs.

Trade in Appendix II species

Nations may only issue permits for export of Appendix II species if the animals were legally obtained and if their export will not be detrimental to the survival of their species.

Unfortunately, CITES has many loopholes. One loophole that is often abused exempts animals “bred in captivity” from permit requirements. A flagrant example of abuse of this loophole was the export of four young wild-caught gorillas from Nigeria to Malaysia in 2002. The animals were purportedly “captive-born” at a zoo that owned only one gorilla, a very old female.

Currently the crab-eating macaque is being heavily trafficked for research, and numbers are dwindling. The “non-detriment” finding can be a joke for animals of this species originating from Cambodia and Laos.

Scientific researchers frequently get exemptions, as do circuses and other travelling exhibits.

CITES conferences

Every two or three years CITES parties meet and debate issues and vote on proposals. United Nations agencies, non-party nations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) may attend as “observers.” They are allowed to participate in debates but are not allowed to vote. There are many trade NGOs; for example, IPPL was seated between the International Fur Trade Federation and International Iguana Foundation and International Professional Hunters Association on the other! Their representatives did not show up regularly.

At the Doha conference, life was difficult for observers and governments alike because of the incompetence of the conference managers. The main reason for anyone outside government to attend is to interact with government officials and meet with other NGOs to discuss issues. IPPL belongs to an alliance called the Species Survival Network (SSN). All
organizations work on the issues important to their colleagues. Language skills are helpful, and all three members of the IPPL team were fluent in two or more languages.

Unfortunately interactions were made near-impossible because delegates and observers were issued identification badges prepared in very small, almost illegible type. Shirley’s conference badge is reproduced at its exact size on this page. Try reading it from a distance!

One male participant commented:

If you did not get up close—and some of the ladies would have certainly gotten wrong ideas about that—you could not read the name of the person you were talking to. First I thought it was just because of my eyesight, but then there were many complaints from younger people, too.

No list of participants was handed out, either. The more sympathetic view is that the organizers were rather incompetent; worse still is the prospect that this was all deliberate.

The Last Stand of the Gorilla

There was only one primate-specific document (Doc. 42). This related to the illegal trade in apes, especially gorillas, and noted:

One very disappointing feature of the trade in great apes, regardless of species, is that the majority of seizures do not appear to be followed-up by adequate investigations or prosecutions. This does not seem to result from any lack of relevant legislation but rather through a lack of will or interest on the part of enforcement and prosecution authorities, together with problems of corruption.

Liberia commented that the discussion in Committee II had focused on gorillas and that there had been no discussion regarding other great apes such as chimpanzees that occur in his region, or on habitat destruction. The document was accepted, taking note of Liberia’s comments.

Although there were no primate-specific upgrading proposals, The Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) presented a lengthy report titled The Last Stand of the Gorilla – Environmental Crime and Conflict in the Congo Basin. The project was financed by the government of France and GRASP. GRASP was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Educational,

CITES: A “Rookie” Perspective

Helen Thirlway, IPPL (UK) Director

Having referred to CITES on many occasions in my work, it was fascinating to observe, and, to a certain extent take part in, the decision-making process for changes to the treaty.

One of the first things I realized was that, although most individuals from NGOs find their initial instincts pointing them to the Committee I meetings, in which species proposals are discussed, we cannot ignore Committee II, which focuses on agenda items such as procedural issues, enforcement matters, and the interpretation of terms used in the treaty. Many of the changes made in these committee meetings can also have dramatic implications.

To give one of many examples at this meeting, within “Document 17: Incentives for the Implementation of the Convention,” one of the proposed incentives was “certification,” meaning that the CITES permitting system would become “a fully-recognized regulatory and branding-type certification scheme.” As well as being a huge undertaking that would substantially drain CITES financial and human resources, this would have alarming implications. By initiating an accreditation scheme, CITES would be actively endorsing commercial wildlife trade, which is inappropriate for a treaty set up to regulate that trade. Many illegal smuggling operations use legal trade as a cover, so the likely result would be that CITES would at some point “accredit” an individual or organization involved in illegal trafficking.

I was surprised that, though a number of parties did not support this proposal, they argued against it on the basis that it was not a priority, and the existing budgetary constraints and work volume of the Secretariat made it inadvisable. Very few seemed mindful of the wider implications. However, Israel’s pro-conservation delegation was well aware and strongly opposed, saying that “the Convention exists to regulate trade and not to certify commercial wildlife traders,” at which I was tempted to shout “Hear, hear!”

Despite the many frustrations of this treaty, which has now been dubbed by some conservationists as the “Convention to Increase Trade in Endangered Species,” we cannot give up and let the trade lobbyists win; we have to keep fighting both at the Conference itself, and also out there on the ground. It is easy to get tied up in getting the legislation in place, while forgetting that this activity is purely academic if it’s not properly enforced. Only by tackling it on both fronts can we hope to halt the decimation of the earth’s wildlife at human hands.
Species and Cultural Organization. You can read the report online (http://www.grida.no/publications/rr/gorilla/).

IPPL also met two government officials from Morocco and discussed with them the feasibility of elevating the status of the Barbary macaque from Appendix II to Appendix I at the next conference (COP-16). This species is threatened by trade and habitat destruction.

Liberia’s wildlife chief, Theodore Freeman, expressed to the IPPL team his interest in seeing a chimpanzee sanctuary established in Liberia. There was formerly a research laboratory in Liberia named VILAB. The lab was established by the New York Blood Center and used chimpanzees in vaccine testing experiments. Unfortunately, chimpanzee orphans are being found in Liberia. There is a sanctuary in neighboring Sierra Leone. Freeman does not want chimpanzees to be exported to overseas facilities, as he would like to see a sanctuary established in Liberia that, like Tacugama, both rescues chimps and educates the public.

Species upgraded

Species proposals were discussed in Committee I. A few wildlife species will receive more protection as a result of COP-15. The Kaiser’s spotted newt was added to Appendix I (the proposal was submitted by Iran). Four species of iguana were added to Appendix II, as well as the red-eyed tree frog. The Satanic beetle of Bolivia was also added to Appendix II.

Marine animal proposals lose

Several proposals were submitted for protection of marine creatures: the Atlantic bluefin tuna, the red coral, the Polar bear, the oceanic whitetip shark, the porbeagle shark, the scalloped hammerhead, the great hammerhead, the smooth hammerhead, the sandbar shark, the dusky shark, and the spiny dogfish. Initially, the porbeagle shark was approved by a secret ballot, with 86 votes in favor, 42 against, and eight abstentions. Debate was reopened in the plenary, and the votes were 84 in favor, 46 against, and 10 abstentions, which meant that the proposal was rejected despite it receiving a large majority. Because Iceland had demanded a secret ballot, it is not known what persuaded four nations to change their votes from “yes” to “no.”

A coalition led by Japan was able to ensure the defeat of all these proposals affecting species that are in high commercial demand. Japan provides “foreign aid” to many small nations, including island nations, allegedly to earn their votes at CITES and International Whaling Commission conferences. The night before the bluefin tuna vote, the Japanese ambassador hosted a dinner at which bluefin tuna sushi was served.

Unfortunately, the behavior of some nations was disgraceful. At one point the Libyan representative grabbed the microphone screaming, “Point of order.” The Chairman of Committee I did not ask the Libyan what his purported “point of order” was, and instead allowed the man to just yell on for ten minutes, placing himself at the front of the speakers’ line. Robert’s Rules of Order define a point of order as an “Infraction of the rules, or improper decorum in speaking. Must be raised immediately after the error is made.” The parties rely on the Chair to ensure that these rules are observed.

Elephants and bobcats

Proposals by Zambia and Tanzania to trade in elephant ivory were defeated, as was a proposal to delist the bobcat, pushed by the United States in order to facilitate the trade in the skins of these beautiful cats. The delegations of Mali and Kenya worked hard to ensure protection for elephants.

Secret ballots

Some nations prefer secret ballots. These are almost inevitably measures that would protect wildlife and that they wish to defeat.

COP-16: it’s Bangkok again!

Thailand was selected as the host country for COP-16. It was also the venue for COP-13. No other country had volunteered to host the meeting. Starting on 1 May 2010, John Scanlon, an Australian employee of UNEP, became the CITES Secretary-General, replacing the departing Willem Wijnstekers. Sadly, CITES has never been properly funded or staffed. To me, its future looks gloomy as concern and compassion for animals seem to have been overwhelmed by human greed and selfishness.

Shirley McGreal with long-time IPPL friends Theo Freeman of Liberia (left) and Bourama Niagate of Mali (right) at the CITES meeting.
Malaysian and international animal protection groups are fighting plans for the establishment of three laboratories in Malaysia: one using primates, one using dogs, and one using small animals. Among the parties involved are the Malaysian companies Malacca Biotech and Vanguard Technologies and the Indian firm Vivo Bio Tech Limited.

Vivo Bio Tech (Malaysia) director Datuk Kuna Sittampalam told the press that the company would be importing beagles from Holland for tests involving dogs. He noted that most of the primates would be obtained locally or, if permits were not issued, monkeys would be imported.

In the 2 April issue of the Malay Mail, Sittampalam was reported as saying, “This is a US$50 billion (RM170 billion) industry and Malaysia wants to be a part of this.”

A coalition of animal rights groups urged Malaysia to stop the construction of the laboratory on humanitarian grounds, as the country has no legislation governing the use of animals in research. “The coalition opposes the construction of this facility for both ethical reasons and the lack of scientific validity of using animals in testing,” the animal rights groups said in a joint statement.

Christine Chin, a spokeswoman for the group, said the creation of the laboratory in southern Malacca state could stain Malaysia’s reputation. “We are calling on animal groups and others around the world to join us in urging the Government of Malaysia to dissociate itself from a proposal that will not only involve the suffering and death of thousands of animals every year, but also will undoubtedly have a negative and detrimental impact on Malaysia’s image overseas,” she said…

The animal rights coalition includes the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Selangor, Friends of the Earth Malaysia, the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection and the European Coalition to End Animal Experiments.

The facility promises to be a miserable environment for all the animals destined to live and die there.
The Taiwanese macaque, native to the island of Taiwan, is found nowhere else in the world. The species is protected under national conservation law and is fairly abundant throughout the island. Captive-born macaques who have been abandoned or confiscated from the public are taken to government-run rescue centers, where they are quarantined and provided with food, shelter, and medical care. The rescue center at the Shoushan Zoo in the southern port city of Kaohsiung has a large population of macaques, who had been housed individually, one animal per cage—until recently.

Like all macaques, the Taiwanese species is a highly social primate. In the wild they show an amazing repertoire of behaviors based almost entirely on their being part of a group. Therefore, keeping them single-housed in tiny, cramped cages with no opportunity to have contact with other macaques is extremely damaging psychologically. Instead of the playful curiosity so typical of group-living macaques, single-housed animals clearly exhibit abnormal behaviors. The macaques at Shoushan seemed to be miserable living under these conditions, but lack of manpower and resources made group-housing the 75 animals seem an insurmountable task.

We at IPPL-Taiwan were long keen to tackle this challenge and sought a solution to this problem through forging effective partnerships. We had had good relations with Shoushan Zoo on other primate projects, and building on this foundation of trust we presented a plan to city authorities to convert an old but very large unused steel-cage structure into a series of partitioned enclosures that might eventually house four social groups. Next, with support from Taiwan’s Council of Agriculture, the construction phase of the diamond-link fence partitioning went ahead, and we could turn our attention to the most difficult task: group formation.

Socialization circles

Due to the gender imbalance of this captive population, the main group would reflect a species-specific composition comprising all the females along with several males, but three more groups would have to consist entirely of bachelor males; otherwise there would be just too much fighting. We appraised each and every macaque on an individual basis, aiming at achieving clear hierarchies, where the smaller animals would assume subordinate positions and the larger ones would be more dominant.

A major factor in deciding group composition was observing how the macaques reacted to each other when placed in what we called “socialization circles.” Their cages were fixed at a safe distance to avoid wounds from initial aggression, but over time most individuals overcame their fear, and many showed clear signs of wanting to affiliate with one another, such as sitting in the corner nearest to their neighbor.

Next, we would carefully edge the cages closer to allow tactile contact.

Ideally, this would result in grooming through the bars, and upon seeing this we could note a satisfactory degree of socialization. These socialization circle procedures took place inside the allotted enclosures, so as to get the macaques as used to the new surroundings as possible, and pretty soon almost all of them seemed rather more comfortable. Instead of concrete floors, there were new tactile sensations such as soil and wood, and gradually they calmed down and appeared interested in the visual and olfactory contact of the others. Where grooming occurred, relations became downright harmonious.
Final preparations

Before we could begin the final release into the new enclosures, we needed to prepare the environment. It needed to afford the monkeys a chance to move as they would in a tree canopy, and to do this we built the enclosures in levels. While the macaques were still in their socialization circles, we installed enrichment structures. Old fire-hose reinforced with plastic water piping was used to create an elevated grid-matrix, and by interweaving lengths of hose a strong but flexible shock-absorbing rigidity is achieved that even the heaviest macaque will not dislodge. This provides a perfect substrate that even the heaviest macaque will not dislodge. This provides a perfect substrate for them to traverse and fully utilizes the vertical space. We also used old hose as visual barriers. One-meter-long strips were cut and hung from longer horizontal lengths of hose to create a curtain-like effect, which is enough to block eye-contact across the enclosure. I also hung lots of hemp sacks that even the heaviest macaque will not dislodge. This provides a perfect substrate for them to traverse and fully utilizes the vertical space. We also used old hose as visual barriers. One-meter-long strips were cut and hung from longer horizontal lengths of hose to create a curtain-like effect, which is enough to block eye-contact across the enclosure.

We used heavy driftwood logs to emulate trees and connect the different levels. We set up resting platforms in high places. Strategically located access doors would allow us to manage the movement of individuals and gradually build up stable social units.

Another vitally important consideration was how to feed them safely, because it is at meal times that aggression often occurs. To tackle this we adapted used steel litter bins to act as private cubicles. Unseen by dominants, a subordinate can sit in one of these and reach through the mesh at the other end. Food items are placed in a length of roof guttering (the only thing we purchased!) attached to the outside, and if the food is distributed equably the dominants are hard put to bully the others.

Released!

Release order is important. The smaller animals get to go out first, so as not to create territorial conflicts and to allow the dominant ones to get used to seeing their future group members climbing about before they get out themselves. Opening the cage doors and watching the animals’ first tentative steps into their new world, some of them after 10 years of incarceration, was always fascinating. Inevitably, there were some conflicts, and some individuals had to be relocated for their own safety, but by and large things went surprisingly well. Over a few weeks recorded rates of aggression gave way to those indicating affiliation.

Although the third bachelor group has yet to be formed, we did achieve our objectives of upgrading the macaques’ living conditions, reducing the caregivers’ workload, and establishing a system where newcomers may be introduced to a group (through the long socialization procedure), and on my last visit to the center the established groups were doing fine. Three infant monkeys who came to the center after the main groups were socialized have gone through the introductory process, and they are safely group-housed now, thanks to the rescue center staff. It is my hope that the last few bachelor macaques will be moved out of their single cages and into Group 3 soon.

In conclusion, socializing captive-born macaques can be a minefield, but with careful planning and execution it can be successful. However, nothing would have been achieved without everyone’s hard work, commitment, and patience.

Special Gifts to IPPL

Given by:

- Anonymous donor, in honor of Susan Kaufman
- Paul Axelband, in memory of Blacklips
- Eleanor Barker, in memory of Anthony Barker
- Nick Bell, in honor of Lesa Miller
- Patricia Christenson, in honor of Barbara Meyers and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Meyers
- Brien Comerford, in honor of all God’s creatures
- Pam Dauphin, in memory of Jean Martin
- Melanie Deibert, in memory of Pamela Snow
- Joseph Dolcini, in memory of Peabody and Toni
- Lollie Eykyn, in memory of Jean Martin
- Peggy Winslow Baum, in memory of Bob Baum
- Linda Frankl and John J. Kaufman, III, in honor of Ron Frankl
- Elissa Blake Free, in memory of Ann Cottrell Free
- Patricia and David Haslett, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Don Haslett
- JoAnn and Larry Hertz, in honor of our beloved sister Nancy Tobin
- Traci and Bill Hoeltke, in memory of Bill’s mother June Hoeltke
- Kevin Ivester, in memory of Jean Martin
- Jennifer M. Johnson, in memory of Spot, Tony, and Xavier, our buddy cat
- Barbara B. Kirman, in memory of Jean Martin
- Diane Koosed and Scott Lake, in memory of Jean Martin
- Gerald Lewis, on behalf of Tom Murphy, OLP ’52
- Christa Lyons, in honor of Lesa Miller
- James and Sidney Martin, in memory of Sam Martin
- Linda May, in memory of Jean Martin
- Suzanne McDermott, in memory of Jean Martin
- Larry Miller, in memory of the Canton, Ohio, VA Hospital kitten
- Sy Montgomery, in memory of Dianne Taylor-Snow’s dog Jackson
- Judy MoreSCO, in honor of Don Dasinger
- Isla and Jacob Mwanza, in memory of David Siddle
- Judy Nguyen, in memory of Blitz the German Shepard
- Carol Ohlendorf, in memory of Richard Ohlendorf
- Louise Owen, on behalf of all the IPPL gibbons
- Jacqueline Park, in memory of Maria Kutlik Jatka
- Prachi Patel, in memory of the mountain gorillas shot in the DRC in 2007
- Joanne Pierce, in memory of Jean Martin
- Holly Frederick Reynolds, in memory of Carole Noon
- Candice L. Smith, in memory of Buster
- Erica Strong, in honor of IPPL gibbon Courtney’s birthday
- Dianne Taylor-Snow, in memory of Jackson and Zoey
- Nancy and Bert Tobin, in memory of Jean Martin
- Michael Turco and Susan Gruner, in memory of Jean Martin
- Sister Mary Vanney, in memory of Jean Martin
- James Weider, in honor of Barbara Weider
without the help of our partners, and I must thank Kaohsiung City Hall for its support and great enthusiasm for the project. I was especially delighted with the generosity and energy of various institutions that participated. Pingtung University Rescue Centre provided invaluable assistance with the necessary birth-control surgery. Terrific help came from the City Fire Service, with the donation of about 90 reels of used fire-hose collected from all over the county. The local Environmental Services made available and delivered to us tons of typhoon driftwood tree trunks they had gathered from the coasts. By coming together and working as a team, our synergy had made it possible for the macaques to come together also and form their own team. We look forward to the next project.

### U.S. Primate Imports for 2009

**Shirley McGreal, IPPL Founder and Executive Director**

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<td>Vervet monkey</td>
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<td>African green monkey</td>
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<td>Spider monkey</td>
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<td>Saki</td>
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**Species (numbers under 10 omitted)**

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**Sorted by foreign exporters (companies shipping less than 20 omitted)**

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<td>Guangdong Scientific Instruments and Materials (China)</td>
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<td>Guangxi Grandforest Scientific Primate Co. (China)</td>
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<td>Suzhou Jin Nuo Import/Export Co. (China)</td>
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**Sorted by U.S. importer (companies importing under 20 animals omitted)**

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<td>Valley Biosystems:</td>
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**Source countries**

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<td>3,199</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>3,118</td>
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IPPL has obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) a Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS) spreadsheet showing the numbers of monkeys imported to the U.S. in 2009. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the full spreadsheet, please contact IPPL (info@ippl.org). Each shipment is reported separately.

The crab-eating macaque is not native to China. All animals exported from China were either wild-caught or descended from wild-caught animals, and there are suspicions that wild-caught animals imported to China from other nations such as Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia are re-exported on false captive-born documents. Such claims are difficult to investigate or prove.

Note that no baboons were imported, and no monkeys were imported from India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, or Nepal. Some U.S. companies are establishing primate labs in Asia. The largest single exporter of monkeys to the U.S. is the Nafouvanny company, Vietnam.

Recently information has shown that Laos is feeding the many huge Chinese primate dealings with monkeys for breeding or direct export to user nations. Investigators from the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection secretly filmed inside the largest monkey farm (the Vannaseng Trading Company) in the first exposé of the primate trade in Laos; they also revealed the construction of a new monkey farm, Vannaseng held over 10,000 monkeys. This firm is reportedly Chinese-owned. Photos showed that the animals were housed in unsatisfactory conditions and shipped in small wooden crates.

The total number of primates reaching the U.S. in 2009 was 22,098. Various breakdowns of the figures follow.

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The 2009 figures for imports of live primates to the UK for use in scientific procedures indicate that there has been a huge drop in the numbers of incoming animals. This is promising, but we cannot assume at this point that it reflects a decrease in the number of primates actually used in experiments. We expect that in July 2010 the UK Home Office will release the figures for numbers of animals used in scientific procedures in 2009, so we will publish this information when it becomes available. We already saw that the sharp increase in primate imports in 2006 did not correspond to a similar rise in the use of primates that year. The 2006 import boom was therefore probably a re-stocking exercise, and that may explain why import numbers have decreased substantially since then. As was the case in 2008, all of the primates imported were long-tailed macaques (also known as crab-eating macaques, *Macaca fascicularis*).

**UK Statistics Show Decline in Primate Imports**

*Helen Thirlway, IPPL (UK) Director*

Despite the drop in numbers, it is disappointing that primates were imported from China and Vietnam to the UK in 2009. There are serious concerns about the “laundering” of wild-caught monkeys from Southeast Asia (most notably from Cambodia and Laos) through China and Vietnam, which, according to IPPL advisor Dr. Ardith Eudey, has resulted in the disappearance of long-tailed macaques “even from legally protected areas.”
IPPL Members’ Meeting 2010

IPPL’s most recent Members’ Meeting, our eleventh biennial gathering, brought together another international crowd of speakers at IPPL’s Headquarters Sanctuary in Summerville, South Carolina, this past April. They regaled IPPL supporters who attended the weekend-long event with all kinds of tales from near and far—mostly “far.” Many of the speakers will be recognized as old friends to regular readers of *IPPL News*, but they brought with them updates on their latest activities.

The Secret Life of IPPL’s Gibbons

Did you know that Elsa and Erin have food fights? Or that that Blackie loves to wrestle? Or that Arun Rangsi likes to dance the “cabbage patch”?  

In case you missed this particular 1980s dance floor craze, the “cabbage patch” involves stretching out the arms and doing a lot of shoulder rotation, a movement at which gibbons excel. When they get themselves worked up—at, say, the sight of numerous unfamiliar visitors in town for IPPL’s Members’ Meeting—IPPL gibbons Arun Rangsi and Palu-Palu are much inclined to do this move.

Cunning and grace

The audience at Friday’s opening dinner learned all this and more as IPPL’s four main animal caregivers—with a combined experience of 35 years at IPPL—shared some of their favorite personal stories about the 33 gibbons now in their care.

Lauren Anderson began with a picture of herself being carefully groomed by Tong, one of our most fastidious gibbons, and went on to describe the varied nature of her relationships with some of the others. Ziggy, for instance, has patented a sneak attack that gets Lauren every time. On hot summer days he and his family will appear to be very eager for a cool drink from one of the hoses used to clean out the enclosures. Lauren is happy to oblige, turning down the flow of water to a trickle and letting the gibbons take their turn. Although his mate Erin is well-behaved, Ziggy has a tendency to take just a sip or two—before darting out a long arm to catch Lauren by surprise (yet again) by a well-aimed swipe at her cap.

Lauren has been caring for IPPL’s gibbons for over nine years, but she is still impressed by their grace (as well as their cunning). She spoke of her admiration for Arun Rangsi’s mate, Shanti, who has perfected a trapeze-artist trick with her tire swing. She will get her swing going like a pendulum until, at just the right moment, she will launch herself in a perfect arc to land precisely on her usual feeding ledge.

Bringing up baby

Hardy Brown laughed when he remembered taking care of Courtney, who had just been rejected by her mother in early 2002. At that time Hardy had recently left the world of asbestos mitigation and environmental cleanup. What would his rough-and-ready former co-workers have thought, mused Hardy, to see him with a baby gibbon in an infant-sling around his neck, a spatula in one hand and a bottle of formula in the other, putting around doing laundry and making otter-cake for the short-clawed otters’ breakfast: “If they could only see me now!” he would think. But it’s been worth it. Although Courtney is all grown up by now, Hardy still gets to wrestle with Blackie, who is deaf, and with Gus, who is “one of my best friends; not only is he a good listener, he agrees with everything I say.”

Dianne House, IPPL’s newest caregiver, has been here about two years and remembers the first time a gibbon, Michael, let her scratch his back. She has noticed how the gibbons are intensely alert to the activities of their human caregivers. Robbie and Dianne (the gibbon) have an enclosure right behind the animal care cottage, where food preparation takes place. “They watch us through the back window and report to the others what we’re doing,” said Dianne. Robbie is generally well-mannered around people; Dianne remembers offering him a grape when she first started working at IPPL, and being astonished when he gently took it from her with his teeth instead of his fingers. He (like his father Nicholas) does like to play with people’s hats, though, so baseball-capped caregivers must
IPPL’s senior animal caregiver, Donetta Pacitti, rounded out the evening talking about some long-time gibbon residents like Igor, who came to IPPL to retire in 1987 after spending 26 years in research. “I am always amazed by him. After all that time in the lab, you would think he would be the meanest gibbon around. But he almost never acts ugly—ever.” And it’s not that gibbons have short memories. On Donetta’s very first day at IPPL, she happened to take part in moving Elizabeth, who had been hand-reared, to her own “big-girl” enclosure in the gibbon yard. Elizabeth has never forgotten or forgiven Donetta. As it turned out, Elizabeth was paired with Ahimsa, one of Donetta’s favorites, whom she used to feed peeled grapes as a baby when he was still clinging to the belly of his laid-back mother, Shanti. Unfortunately, this means that Donetta doesn’t get to spend as much time with Ahimsa as she’d like.

Remembering

Our caregivers also remembered with fondness some gibbons from years gone by. Hardy recalled how Penny, Blackie’s mate, was always such a dainty Southern lady (unlike Elsa and Erin). Penny, who passed away in 2006, would never throw food on the ground. She would neatly pick each item out of her bucket, taste it, and then put any uneaten portion back into her lunch pail. IPPL’s long-time special-needs resident, Beanie, who passed on over five years ago, was endearingly remembered by Donetta. Although Beanie was blind and epileptic, he immediately recognized her voice when she returned to work at IPPL after a six-year hiatus. “I opened the door to his special den on the porch and said, ‘Come see me, Bean,’” she said, “and he immediately stretched out his arms to me, making his little ‘oo-oo-oo’ noises, and kissed me on the cheek, just like he used to do every morning.”

If you’re not careful, gibbons won’t only steal your hat—they’ll steal your heart, too.
A “New” Sanctuary in the DRC

Kanshi, a former pet abandoned by a UN aid worker, is now safe at Lwiro.

Andrea Edwards has an Australian accent, but her report came from the heart of Africa. She represented the Centre de Rehabilitation des Primates de Lwiro (CRPL), a facility that has its roots in the time when the Democratic Republic of Congo was a Belgian colony. Andrea has just finished a year’s internship at the CRPL.

The primate rescue work in Lwiro, she said, started in earnest in 2003, when Kalumé, an orphan chimp whose mouth had been damaged by poachers, was delivered to the government-owned natural history laboratory that had been limping along for decades. After that, as increasing numbers of primate orphans started to trickle in, the facility became a de facto Congolese government sanctuary for a few years, but there was no commitment (let alone funding) from other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the country.

A turn for the better

That changed when the Spanish NGO, Coopera, took the Lwiro sanctuary under its wing. Coopera sponsored a veterinarian, Carmen Vidal, who undertook the management of the place in 2007. Things have been improving ever since: the sanctuary is integrating more with nearby communities, programs are in place to teach the local children about forest ecosystems, and the animals are getting better care. IPPL began helping fund care for rescued chimpanzees there last year (see the May 2009 issue of IPPL News, page 25).

Now, instead of feeding on scraps salvaged by the unpaid lab workers, the CRPL primates enjoy over 45 items on the facility’s diet sheet. Instead of roaming onto the nearby road through gaps in the dilapidated caging, the animals are secured in clean, safe enclosures behind a fence. The quarantine area is now completely full, with 12 baby chimps who get 24/7 attention. Instead of simply restraining some of the animals with chains, the facility’s workers are doing everything they can to provide the best possible captive environment. Ten monkey cages have been constructed, and the chimps can look forward to a 7.2 hectare (18 acre) forested area that is slowly but surely being fenced in (“They started work on the foundation of the fence two weeks ago,” said Andrea); the adjacent chimp dormitory is already finished. What began with Kalumé has now become a home for 48 chimpanzees as well as 68 monkeys. Olive baboons, spot-nosed monkeys, mona monkeys—in all, about 10

monkey species call Lwiro home.

Shumbi’s story

The rescued chimpanzees come from a variety of circumstances: Gentile was forced to dance at a market, Kongo was a pet in a war-child orphanage, and Kanshi was the abandoned pet of a United Nations aid worker. And the monkeys come from sometimes surprising backgrounds, too, like Shumbi the olive baboon, who had been shot in the arm by a drunken soldier. Shumbi, it turned out, was a local character, known to demand food from visitors at the entrance of the national park located a couple of miles down the road. He was already missing his right arm, probably from a trap, and was blind in one eye. Given the extent of his injuries, he is now unreleasable and is being cared for on a permanent basis at Lwiro. But the word on the street is that although Shumbi has “retired,” his two sons are keeping up the family business and are still to be seen patrolling the park entrance.

Andrea Edwards, an intern at the Lwiro sanctuary in the DRC...
They Know the Drill

Liza Gadsby figures she’s had malaria about twice a year for the last 22 years. But who’s counting? That’s part of the cost of doing business in Nigeria and Cameroon, where she and her partner Peter Jenkins have been operating primate sanctuaries under the umbrella of the Pandrillus Foundation (see the December 2009 issue of IPPL News, page 7), which they founded all those years ago.

So why did they do it?

Nigeria and Cameroon rank #3 and #2, respectively, for primate diversity in Africa, just behind the top-ranked Democratic Republic of Congo. Liza pointed out the extremely rare subspecies of gorilla (the Cross River gorilla, *Gorilla gorilla diehli*; estimated population, 250) and chimpanzee (Elliott’s chimpanzee, *Pan troglodytes elliottii*; estimated population, 4,000), both of whom are unique to the small Cross-Sanaga region of southeast Nigeria/southwestern Cameroon, where the Pandrillus sanctuaries are located. There are several endemic monkey species, too.

But Liza and Peter first fell in love with drills, terrestrial group-living monkeys related to (but less well known than) the more colorful mandrills. Adult males can weigh in at close to 90 pounds, but females are only a third that size. There may be as few as 4,000 of these majestic animals left in the wild, and they are extremely rare in captivity; 22 years ago, there was no viable captive population at all. Even among the world’s zoos, drills were known to have low reproductivity and genetic diversity. So she and her partner decided to establish Drill Ranch (their first facility) in Calabar, Nigeria, to provide a sanctuary for drill monkeys (as well as chimpanzees, now numbering 30) who have been orphaned by the bushmeat trade.

After incoming animals have recovered from the trauma of their capture, rehabilitated drills are moved to natural forest enclosures at Drill Ranch Afi Mountain, four hours’ drive away. Over the years, the project has recovered 81 orphan drills and rehabilitated them into six social groups. They have bred so successfully that by now around 350 drills live at the Drill Ranch facilities. Liza told the IPPL audience that, in the next month or so, a group of about 100 drills is due to be released into the wilds of the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary, which is adjacent to the Drill Ranch Afi Mountain facility. The Wildlife Sanctuary is a beautiful area, home to gorillas, chimpanzees, three guenon species, and even a few wild drills. When Pandrillus set up its Afi Mountain facility next door in the early 1990s, the Wildlife Sanctuary was a state forest reserve; the land had been leased as a logging concession, but fortunately no trees had yet been cut. After a long campaign joined by other conservation groups, the mountain was given full protection.

Beyond Nigeria

The authorities in the region have taken note of Liza and Peter’s successes. In neighboring Cameroon, Pandrillus was given charge of the crumbling Limbe Zoo in 1993, and they have transformed this government facility into a fine primate sanctuary with a diverse population of apes and monkeys: 14 gorillas and 55 chimpanzees, as well as a drill group over 60 strong, mandrills, Anubis baboons, three mangabey species, and eight guenon species. The Limbe Wildlife Centre is visited by 40,000 Cameroonians a year.

In addition to doing their part to foster public conservation education, wildlife law enforcement, and primate rehabilitation, Pandrillus has recently added another item to its agenda: habitat protection, via the Cross River State Government’s Task Force on Anti-Deforestation, which formed in January 2009. When Liza and Peter would see the enormous rafts of illegally felled timber floating down the river—as many as five rafts a night of hand-harvested lumber floating away before their eyes from Cameroon through Nigeria—they would think to themselves, “Well, there goes the primate habitat.” So now Peter and his team staff checkpoints to try to rein in this devastation. Liza described how eight trucks and two trailer loads of illegal lumber were seized at Task Force checkpoints in a single night.

Malaria is widely considered to be a severely debilitating disease. It seems that no one has told Liza and Peter this.

...shares field notes with Liza Gadsby, co-founder of the Pandrillus sanctuaries.
An Eye for Owl Monkeys

Colombia’s Angela Maldonado has been working in the Amazon for 12 years, so she knows a lot about owl monkeys—small, nocturnal primates with large, appealing eyes. And she knows why very few primatologists are willing to touch the decades-long illicit trade in owl monkeys (or night monkeys) in her home country: the primary malaria researcher, who is allegedly tied up in most of the trade, is a friend of Colombia’s president (see the May 2008 issue of IPPL News, page 12).

Dr. Manuel Elkin Patarroyo had “legal permits” for about 50,000 owl monkeys to be used for experiments from 1984 to 2006, and Angela speculated that the real number used may have been twice that high.

She is troubled that the particular night monkey species targeted for research, Aotus nancymaae, is supposedly not native to Colombia, which would imply one of two scenarios: 1) either Dr. Patarroyo has violated the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), since neither Peru nor Brazil have issued any export permits to Colombia for this species; or 2) a population of this species is indeed to be found in Colombia, in which case these animals should be identified and, on the basis of their limited geographic range, accorded even more legal protection. Currently, A. nancymaae is listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in the category of “Least Concern,” but a unique geographically restricted population of this species should be upgraded to “Endangered” status.

The Aotus Project

Since 2008, Angela (who just completed her Ph.D. work at Oxford Brookes University) has been working on what she has called The Aotus Project. This pilot study, spearheaded by Fundacion Entropika, aims to assess the impact of trade specifically in the tri-border region where Colombia, Peru, and Brazil meet—and where Dr. Patarroyo’s Colombian lab is located. Fundacion Entropika, which Angela helped found, is a group that works with indigenous communities to preserve the biodiversity of the Amazon region.

For The Aotus Project, Angela visited 11 communities (all but one indigenous) and interviewed 43 owl monkey trappers and traders. She calculates that from 2007 to 2008 about 4,000 night monkeys were traded for biomedical research alone (a value of US$100,000); this figure does not include animals removed from the wild for bushmeat or the pet trade. Clearly, this is not a sustainable system.

What to do with a sacred cow?

But how to respond? Targeting Dr. Patarroyo, the “sacred cow” of the Colombian scientific community, does not seem feasible (more than 80 percent of Colombia’s annual research budget goes to his lab). Neither does complaining to the regional environmental authority (CORPOAMAZONIA), which has consistently failed to rein in Dr. Patarroyo’s questionable activities (such as allegedly dumping ex-lab monkeys back into the Colombian forest by the hundreds).

Instead, Angela is interested in working with the Peruvian CITES Authority, which is concerned about the apparent violation of its mandate by the ongoing night monkey trade. She is also interested in recruiting to her cause the impoverished regional trappers who catch the animals; they are aware of the illegal nature of their activities and have complained to her about poor treatment by Dr. Patarroyo.

Angela would also like to see alternate livelihoods offered to local people, such as the establishment of a freeze-drying facility, which could be used to prolong the lifetime of fruits harvested from the forest. Four communities are now cooperating with Fundacion Entropika to shift local attitudes. Traditionally, some native Amazon peoples believed that night monkeys were evil blood-suckers that lived for 80 years and reproduced each year. Education is the key to challenging such myths.

Perhaps someday the owl monkey could become a flagship species for indigenous pride, rather than for a failed malaria research program.
The Hundredth Chimpanzee

For the first time in fifteen years, Bala Amarasekaran had to say no.

Bala came to IPPL’s meeting for a return engagement, having previously impressed the audience at IPPL’s 2004 Members’ Meeting with his tales of overcoming all the odds—including a 10-year-long civil war that was just then coming to an end—to create a world-class chimpanzee sanctuary (see the May 2004 issue of IPPL News, page 13). All this in Sierra Leone, no less, a country that ranks almost at the bottom of the United Nations’ Human Development Index. Bala, in collaboration with the Forestry Department, founded the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary fifteen years ago, starting with Bruno, his first rescued chimp, whom he found tied to a tree.

Now there are 100 chimps at his facility, and Bala has had to start to say no to newcomers. He does not want to compromise the well-being of the existing residents by overcrowding, and until he can raise enough funds to build more enclosures, he and his staff are finding themselves in a very difficult situation.

The problem with success

In an unexpected way, Bala and his team have become victims of their own success. The recent influx of young chimpanzees (a steady stream of one per month for the past 15 months) can be attributed to the effect of Tacugama’s nationwide chimp census. Initiated at a 2008 meeting of the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance, the Sierra Leone National Chimpanzee Census Project (SLNCCP) is just now wrapping up. The work involved a 14 month period of defying the country’s poor infrastructure to survey a grid of 100 nine-kilometer-square blocks across the country, to conduct a further intensive study of six protected areas, and to interview more than 1,000 communities. The last chimp survey was done 30 years ago by IPPL Advisory Board member Geza Teleki and his team, and it covered only part of the country. A final published report is due out in a couple of months.

Bala told his IPPL audience that this heightened level of interaction has clearly sensitized fellow Sierra Leonians to the problem of bushmeat orphans (young animals whose families were killed for meat) and inspired people to turn in more orphaned chimpanzees to the sanctuary.

This is a positive development, but the real goal of the SLNCCP is to address the survival of the remaining wild chimps in Sierra Leone by gathering baseline data on their number and distribution. Team members also aim to identify possible release sites for rehabilitated apes. In addition, SLNCCP workers hope to use the survey as a tool to attract potential community partners that would be willing to promote chimp conservation and wildlife law enforcement. The survey comes at a crucial moment in Sierra Leone’s history, as people gradually re-populate rural areas abandoned during the war years and likely come into greater conflict with “crop-raiding” chimps—post-war, but before any great boom in development.

Thinking beyond 100

The challenges for Sierra Leone’s chimps will surely continue in the coming years, and Bala has one eye firmly fixed on the long-term success of his project. Starting two years ago he began cultivating Tacugama’s capacity for ecotourism, and his attractive guest lodges now generate funds to cover about a quarter of the sanctuary’s operating costs. The civil war unfortunately stifled international tourism, but Tacugama still gets about 2,000 regular visitors a year, as well as over 2,000 children from local schools and institutions.

He is also expanding the line of local crafts for sale at the sanctuary. Bala showed IPPL members a heart-breaking picture of a local man missing his right hand, a too-common victim of the atrocities of war, who has nonetheless learned to create woodcarvings of chimps to sell at the sanctuary store. With persistence and creativity, Bala is dedicated to helping both the chimps and the humans of Sierra Leone heal from past tragedies and move forward toward a sustainable future.
A Whole Lot of Wildlife in His Hands

Edwin Wiek is the founder and director of the Wildlife Friends Foundation of Thailand, and he has a lot—a whole lot—of animals to care for. Although WFFT will provide care to any wild animal in need of help, including elephants and bears, Edwin’s main focus is on primates. This is clear from his six species of gibbons and siamangs (totaling 106 animals) and the hundreds of monkeys at WFFT’s facilities, not to mention the 12 Bornean orangutans whose care he is sponsoring at a government center. He maintains all of WFFT’s animals—a total of about 500—with a staff of around 30 workers and an equal number of volunteers.

Edwin had been a businessman in the world of fashion when a serious auto accident caused him to re-evaluate his life. He established WFFT in 2001, and the organization has grown to encompass (among other components) a rescue center, a mobile wildlife clinic, an education program, a wildlife law enforcement program, and (starting last year) a remote gibbon release project hundreds of kilometers away in northern Thailand, which was formed in cooperation with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and Mahidol University. The first two pairs of gibbons will be released back to the wild within the next few months and then tracked via satellite.

Gibbon rescue and more

WFFT has rescued 132 gibbons since the organization was founded. Most of them had been pets, though some have come from the tourist trade, which is a growing problem in Thailand, with its annual 11 million visitors per year. Many of these tourist animals are used as photo props. European sightseers will pay 200 to 300 Thai Baht (about seven to nine USD) to have their picture taken with a cute, exotic animal like a baby gibbon. Sadly, it is difficult to properly socialize gibbons who have grown to adulthood in an abnormal human-dominated environment, and Edwin estimates that about 1,000 Thai gibbons remain in private hands.

To try to put a halt to the many sad practices that result in primates being abused, Edwin has initiated several education campaigns. For example, he has produced a professionally-drawn comic book titled Gibbons: Calling for Home, that he has printed both in English (2,000 copies) and Thai (7,000 copies), which amusingly but realistically describes the fate of gibbon youngsters who are sold as pets in Thailand (as described in the May 2009 issue of IPPL News, page 31). IPPL sponsored the printing of these books. More directly, Edwin has also orchestrated wildlife law enforcement busts. An especially dramatic one in 2003 employed 70 police officers and targeted a zoo owner whose friendship with the then-prime minister allowed the owner to accumulate over 100 orangutans, even though these apes are not native to Thailand. Edwin estimates that over 300 orangutans have been illegally imported into Thailand in the last decade, and he has helped confiscate 138 of them since 2003.

Out on bail

Edwin has been arrested five times in the past nine years. At the time of IPPL’s meeting, he was out on bail and would be facing more charges on his return to Thailand, a result of comments he had written concerning the Tiger Temple tourist attraction in Kanchanaburi. The IPPL audience was very fortunate that this courageous wildlife defender was able to come to the meeting at all.
For people who are most accustomed to pictures of Barbary macaques rummaging through garbage cans or feasting off ice cream cadged from tourists to the Rock of Gibraltar (see the May 2008 issue of IPPL News, page 18), Els van Lavieren’s presentation would come as something of a shock. These adaptable animals are actually native to the cedar and oak forests of northern Algeria and Morocco. They have a remarkable dignity in their native setting—foraging on a variety of native leaves, bark, fruit, and berries, living in complex social groups of up to 50 animals each, surrounded by enormous trees.

However, these animals are in serious danger of extinction on their home turf, as Els reported. According to census estimates, the global wild population (not counting the 250 semi-free-ranging animals now in Gibraltar) has declined from 21,500 (in 1975) to 4,000 individuals. In 2008, they were reclassified from “Vulnerable” to the more severe “Endangered” category on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

Monkeys for the markets

Els, who is the director of the Moroccan Primate Conservation Foundation, has helped to uncover some of the reasons for this alarming state. The illegal trade in infants is a huge problem. According to a market survey she conducted as part of her thesis project at Oxford Brookes University, 300 wild Barbary macaque babies are captured from the mid-Atlas region of Morocco every year, a rate that exceeds sustainable levels by 50 percent. These young animals are sold openly; you can pay around 200 Euros for them in the markets of Fez and Marrakesh and on the roadside in Tangiers.

They are then easily smuggled by ferry into Spain, where customs officers are unaware of the declining status of the wild population, where checkpoints are overwhelmed at the end of summer by hordes of returning vacationers, and where officials are more concerned with drug and human trafficking. Many of these animals then make their way to France, where they may wind up as pets, or they may be used in monkey fights (commonly on the outskirts of Paris) or as substitute guard dogs (ever since France enacted restrictions on pit bull ownership).

Sanctuaries are now overwhelmed by the excess Barbary macaques who have been discarded by their owners. Stichting AAP, the large primate-focused sanctuary in the Netherlands, has a waiting list of 60.

Disappearing cedars

The monkeys’ native habitat as a whole is similarly confronted by unsustainable practices. Formerly, nomadic sheep-herding Berbers would use the forests as summer grazing grounds, giving the vegetation time to recover in the off-season. Now, due to the high demand for sheep and goat meat, these people have begun raising mixed herds and have set up year-round camps in sensitive areas. The land becomes degraded from overgrazing (especially by the goats, which tend to rip out the undergrowth when they browse). Berbers also cut branches for fodder, but this wounds the cedar trees, so they are more likely to die. Overharvesting of lichens, another significant element of the ecosystem, is another problem. In addition, logging (both legal and illegal) is occurring at a high rate. Cedar wood is favored both for crafts and for use in traditional domestic architecture. Although some new cedar trees have been planted, herdsmen commonly cut down the protecting fences without fear of punishment.

Els believes that these problems must be combated with a multi-level approach, hopefully with the help of other non-governmental organizations. She suggests educating vacationers about the status of the macaque, to halt the trade at the point where money changes hands. She also proposes to train Moroccan and Spanish customs officers and to work on creating a macaque sanctuary in Morocco, so that the officials will have a place to put the confiscated animals. In addition, Els recognizes the importance of preserving the original habitat of the animals by enforcing proper management practices in the protected areas where the Barbary macaques live. The Moroccan Primate Conservation Foundation certainly has a long “to do” list to protect this unique primate species.
Primates in Entertainment

Julia Gallucci’s presentation reminded everyone that primates are suffering not only in distant lands, but right next door, as well. She estimates there are about 15,000 primates privately owned in the U.S., about 750 of them chimpanzees.

There are lots of monkey breeders who would be happy to sell you a loris, a lemur, a capuchin monkey—just about anything you could want—for US$3,000 to US$5,000. Although there are only two or three ape breeders still operating in the U.S., for a bit more money (US$50,000 to US$60,000) you could even purchase your very own baby chimpanzee.

Julia, who works with the Primate Patrol program of the Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest to track the fate of primates in entertainment, noted that although some states have laws against keeping pet primates, anyone can get around this prohibition by acquiring a United States Department of Agriculture “exhibitor license” and claim their little monkey or ape is used for greeting card photos or other commercial purposes. After that, it isn’t hard to meet the absolutely minimal standards required by the Animal Welfare Act: providing a tennis ball, for example, could be considered “enrichment.”

Typical abuses

These 15,000 primates may live in people’s houses as “pets,” but they may also end up on exhibit in questionable roadside zoos or traveling circuses, or may be made to participate in “pay to play” operations, where visitors can pay to have their photo taken with a wild animal. Primates are also used commercially in ads or in movies and television, like the capuchin who appeared in Pirates of the Caribbean, the chimpanzee in Desperate Housewives, or the gibbon in 30 Rock.

This is not a benign practice. The animals who are forced to appear in these projects are usually babies or youngsters (chimpanzees in particular are generally “retired” by the time they are eight years old, as by then they are too strong and unpredictable to be handled safely by humans; they can live another 50 years). Primate actors have usually been removed from their mother when only weeks (or even days) old. They are often reared in social isolation to break their will, resulting in a variety of abnormal behaviors (like stereotypical rocking, head-banging, object attachment, over-grooming, and even self-mutilation). Their teeth or nails may be removed to reduce their ability to fight back against any mistreatment, like the random beatings designed to keep them forever on the alert to their trainers’ demands. All this to get them to perform unnatural behaviors on cue.

And what about those reassuring-sounding messages in the end credits of movies that use live animals, stating that “no animals were harmed” during filming? The American Humane Association (AHA), which is responsible for this certification, is funded by the Screen Actors Guild, has no oversight regarding the treatment of animal actors off-set, and has no enforcement power. This means that even if an animal is patently abused—as in the case of a chimpanzee who was reportedly punched while on the set of Speed Racer, in full view of the AHA representative—a filmmaker can simply drop the “no animals were harmed” statement from the film.

Unfortunate consequences

This media exposure has negative consequences for people, too. People who see “primates on parade” are less likely to take issues of primate welfare seriously. They may think primates are just cute clowns or amusing little furry people. And audiences can easily get the mistaken impression that these primates (especially chimpanzees) are not endangered in the wild, if they can be so easily procured for our entertainment.

In addition, the appearance of these animals in the media can fuel the desire for pet primates, which can have tragic repercussions for everyone involved (except, ironically, the breeder). Primates are wild animals at heart and may unexpectedly turn on their human associates, like Travis the chimp, who seriously attacked his owner’s friend and was shot to death as a result (see the May 2009 issue of IPPL News, page 21). Other former pet primates may simply cycle through a depressing revolving door of abuse, from the pet trade, to the advertising/entertainment industry, to a roadside zoo, to a biomedical lab. Zoos will only rarely accept the socially maladjusted animals that emerge from this cycle, and sanctuaries are running out of room.

All this, ultimately, has conservation consequences, too. Quoting the views of primate behavioral expert Richard Wrangham, Julia concluded, “We can’t properly care for a species if we ignore the needs of individual animals.”
Michael Budkie is the director of Stop Animal Exploitation NOW! (SAEN), a grassroots group that tracks down and exposes abuse of animals, especially primates, in U.S. labs. Michael lectures about cruel lab conditions at conferences around the country (see the September 2009 issue of IPPL News, page 12) and orchestrates press conferences and media events to highlight institutionalized sources of animal suffering. His exposés have garnered national media attention from outlets like the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, the Boston Globe, and USA Today.

His passion for his mission clearly drives him on. He was visibly moved as he recounted the cruelty regularly suffered by the estimated 120,000 primates (as of 2007) captive in U.S. labs and dealer operations, including 1,100 chimpanzees. He showed an image of barren stainless steel lab cages, these animals’ homes, the primary purpose of which is to allow ease of cleaning. He also showed an image of a typical primate restraint chair, grimy from bodily fluids, where a monkey could be confined for up to 104 consecutive hours during an experiment.

Exposing Primate Abuses in U.S. Labs

Each animal has a story

Some of the individual stories can be painful to hear. Michael recounted the example of a monkey, #V000335, imprisoned at the University of California, San Francisco. The lab workers had not bothered to keep the animal’s brain implants clean, and documents showed that “malodorous exudate” and “necrotic tissue” could be seen at the surgery site. And Michael mentioned a chimpanzee whose story has an eerie personal parallel. A chimpanzee named Karen was born in the wild in 1958, the same year as Michael’s wife, also named Karen. However, Karen the chimpanzee is a resident of the New Iberia Research Center, a notorious primate lab in Louisiana, and has lived essentially her entire life in a cage. It hardly seems possible.

Michael also spoke about Alpha Genesis, which is registered as a research facility but is basically a primate breeding center, located an hour’s drive away from IPPL’s sanctuary. It houses about 3,500 monkeys. As Michael put it, the level of care there is evidenced by a frequent diagnosis, revealed in documents he obtained under the Freedom of Information Act: “Animal was too decomposed to determine a cause of death.” Other details he uncovered included 33 primate deaths from trauma and 66 traumatic injuries within one year, 12 cases of frostbite, and (in the case of monkey CV7A) a “huge laceration to right flank with bowels spread out around corral.”

A press conference about Alpha Genesis held by Michael in downtown Charleston the day after the Members’ Meeting, where he called for a federal investigation of the facility, resulted in a news item by the Associated Press. As quoted by AP writer Meg Kinnard, Michael stated, “We’re not saying that the cages weren’t clean.... We’re talking about animals literally being torn apart here.” According to the AP article, “Greg Westergaard, Alpha Genesis’s chief executive, did not immediately return a message seeking comment.”
The last time Helen Thirlway attended an IPPL’s Members’ Meeting, two years ago, she was still officially IPPL (UK)’s “Conservation and Welfare” Director (see the May 2008 issue of IPPL News, page 14). But now she is simply IPPL (UK)’s Director, overseeing all aspects of the organization’s daily operations, and she gave a thorough overview of the progress and plans at IPPL’s newly-revitalized British branch.

She structured her presentation around the four areas in which IPPL (UK) is active. Grant-making has always been a strong suit, with recent awards going to organizations now familiar to the IPPL audience, like the Moroccan Primate Conservation Foundation (for the first enclosure to be built at Morocco’s first-ever Barbary macaque sanctuary), the Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary (for special introduction dens used to help socialize the apes), and Fundacion Entropika (for a night monkey census). She also mentioned some less-familiar but no-less-worthy causes, such as the Lebialem Hunters’ Beekeeping Initiative (an attempt to establish an alternative livelihood to bushmeat hunting in four communities in Cameroon) and the survey work of Indonesia’s Nature Conservation Agency (to determine actual baseline population numbers of long-tailed macaques in that country; these animals are “assumed to be numerous,” and as a result, export quotas of these animals have continued to rise, based on demand for research animals overseas).

Cooperation, the secret to success

Another recent cooperative venture involves campaigning on behalf of issues of common concern. IPPL (UK) works through a coalition group called the Ape Alliance on issues regarding primates in entertainment and recently joined forces with the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) to protest the building of a new overseas primate lab in Johor, Malaysia.

IPPL (UK) has also just started its own “Forgotten Ape” campaign. The aim of this campaign is to raise awareness about the conservation status of gibbons, the smallest of the apes, who are often neglected by the media in favor of larger ape species. Last December, Helen co-organized the UK premiere of the BBC documentary Radio Gibbon, which was filmed at the Kalaweit sanctuary, a large gibbon rescue and rehabilitation operation in Indonesia. The star of the show, Aurélien “Chanee” Brulé, attended to help introduce the film and take part in a Q & A session afterwards.

Creative fundraising (along with consciousness-raising) helps make all these activities happen. For example, IPPL (UK)’s association with the Reclaim-it company, which recycles mobile phones for charity, has generated much-appreciated funds. This partnership also dovetails nicely with raising awareness about the threats that primates face, since the mineral coltan, which is needed for cell phones to function, is extracted (often illegally) from important primate habitat sites in the DRC, home to gorillas, chimpanzees, and many monkey species. Similarly, a jewellery recycling program is providing a boost to income while also raising awareness of the damage to primates and other wildlife caused by gold-mining activity. You can read about all these initiatives and more on the IPPL (UK) Web site (www.ippl-uk.org). And when visiting, you might want to download the free gibbon ringtone!
Jen Feuerstein has some large shoes to fill. She is currently the sanctuary director at Save the Chimps, a post previously held by the visionary Dr. Carole Noon, who passed away last year after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer (see the May 2009 issue of IPPL News, page 13). Jen greatly admired Carole and paid tribute to the late chimp-rescuer extraordinaire.

Carole’s adventures with chimps all began when the Air Force decided to get out of chimp research in 1997 and put its remaining apes—over 140 of them—up for bid. Most of them went to the notorious Coulston Foundation, a research institution with a terrible reputation for animal abuse. Carole then sued the Air Force on the chimps’ behalf and was awarded custody of 21 of the chimpanzees in a settlement.

Carole was committed to making the best possible life for the rescued chimps in her care, so with the help of generous funding from the Arcus Foundation she bought 150 acres of old orange groves in Fort Pierce, Florida, about an hour north of Palm Beach. She began building an incredible open-air chimp sanctuary constructed around a series of islands, meant for animals who in some cases had not touched grass in decades, if ever.

**Chimps get a second chance**

In an incredible turn of fate, the Coulston Foundation soon went bankrupt, and Dr. Fred Coulston contacted Carole to see if she were interested in taking custody of his chimpanzees. With a special grant from the Arcus Foundation, Save the Chimps rescued the 266 remaining Coulston Foundation chimps in September 2002, along with 61 monkeys who were given a permanent home at a sanctuary in Texas. Carole then began to transfer the animals gradually from the Foundation’s stark facilities in Alamagordo, New Mexico, to her little piece of chimp heaven in Florida.

A custom-built chimp transport trailer is used to take the animals on their non-stop 36-hour cross-country ride. The climate-controlled vehicle has a window for each ape, and baby monitors keep the staff apprised of the situation in the animal area. The migration process has taken years, but it is hoped that the 89 animals still living in New Mexico will have been moved by mid- to late-2011.

Carole will surely smile when the last chimp gets off the bus.

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**Learning to care**

Boys and girls from across rural Uganda, all of whom lived within five kilometers (three miles) of wild chimpanzee habitats, gathered for the first five-day camp in 2007. Thanks to IPPL, said Haida, this past January the Camp Uganda Conservation Education Society was able to increase the length of the camp to six days, the number of students to 30, and the number of teachers to seven. Activities included writing in journals, planting trees, performing skits, playing eco-games, creating art, and singing songs; new projects for this year included building simple fuel-efficient “rocket stoves” (very popular with the campers) and a field trip to the botanical gardens to visit a plot of undisturbed forest.

Of course, the children also got to learn about and see the wild animals living at UWEC. These include species that loom large in the natural history and folklore of Uganda, like white rhinos (imported from Kenya, as these animals are now extinct in Uganda), lions, and, naturally, chimpanzees. The children even got to help care for the chimps, feeding them and cleaning up the chimp island by raking up the grass clippings and clearing the grounds of debris, first thing in the morning before the chimps arrived for breakfast. From the pictures Haida took, the children clearly enjoyed exploring the island enclosure, too, including testing out the climbing structures, tire swings, and old fire-hoses, as well as “fishing for termites” using the artificial termite mound.

At the end of the camp, the children received tote bags of school supplies. And they were asked a question: How much do you care about helping wild chimpanzees survive? Ninety percent of the campers answered “very much.”
Primate Enrichment: As Easy As One-Two-Bamboo!

Keri Cairns knows how to “build on” his previous experiences, literally. IPPL contracted with this primate enrichment expert from the UK to help direct construction and improvement projects at the Highland Farm primate sanctuary in Thailand (see the May 2009 issue of *IPPL News*, page 6). Highland Farm was the beneficiary of a very successful fundraising drive by IPPL in the fall of 2008, with more than $60,000 raised, and Keri went to Thailand to suggest ways to put the funds to the best use. Keri shared details of his trip with IPPL audience members and showed how simple structures made from bamboo could be used to amuse monkeys and gibbons alike.

But IPPL’s gibbons also benefited from Keri’s expertise. He and IPPL (UK) Director Helen Thirlway were stranded for more than two weeks at IPPL’s sanctuary after the Members’ Meeting, due to the air traffic disruptions resulting from the Icelandic volcano eruption. The upshot was that he had extra time to create some ingenious climbing structures out of bamboo harvested on the sanctuary grounds for the IPPL gibbons, as well.

IPPL's gibbons Maynard (below) and Gibby (inset, bottom and right) test out the new climbing structures built for them by Keri Cairns, UK primate enrichment wiz. Maynard's poles feature bamboo jingles, while Gibby's come with a bucket, rope, and pulley for hoisting treats.
International Primate Protection League’s Eleventh Biennial Members’ Meeting, April 9–11, 2010, Summerville, South Carolina

More Members’ Meeting Memories!

The ever-popular Plantation Singers rounded out the Saturday evening festivities with songs like “Amazing Grace.”

Camp Uganda’s founder Haida Bolton (left) shares a coffee break with long-time IPPL supporter Eleanora (“My friends call me Eleo!”) Worth.

UK primate enrichment expert Keri Cairns (center) poses with long-time IPPL volunteer Rebecca Austin (left) and IPPL’s newest animal caregiver Dianne House (right).

▲ IPPL member Tony Waters surveys the amazing variety of items up for bid at the successful Silent Auction, which raised nearly $4,000 for overseas primate sanctuaries.

Jen Feuerstein, of Save the Chimps, gets a little sun!
On the evening of February 12, the IPPL sanctuary received a good four inches of snow, more than we’ve had in a decade. It lingered overnight, so the next morning our gibbons awoke to scenes of a real winter wonderland. We couldn’t let them outdoors in such weather, but the snow stuck around until Valentine’s Day, when it was much warmer. We let them outside, and our animal caregiver Noreen Laemers made snowballs and mini-snowmen for a number of our little apes. Some of them, like Arun Rangsi and Shanti, were suspicious of these novel items. But others, like Courtney, Maynard, and especially Ziggy (pictured here), seemed eager to investigate—i.e., “groom” and/or eat—their temporary frosty friends.

You can see more pictures of IPPL’s marvelous “snow day” on Facebook (www.facebook.com/InternationalPrimateProtectionLeague); visit our page and get to know the IPPL gibbons!
Check Out These Terrific... Boneheads!

Wouldn’t you know it? Money-hungry J.P. Rothbone and his sniveling cronies are up to no good again. This time they’re out to destroy the rainforest. They’re going to trash all the trees to make room for their palm kernel oil plantations. But wait—here come the Boneheads!

The Boneheads are an adventurous team of cartoon characters who do battle with greedy planet-destroyers like J.P. Rothbone. In their Rescue in the Rainforest adventure, not only will you see them protect the forest and all the creatures (including gibbons) who live in it, you’ll also get to see IPPL’s newest gibbon, Maynard, on screen!

The Boneheads were created by the team at Planet Bonehead, and you can see these cartoon guys in action on Web TV and DVD (www.planetbonehead.com). The Planet Bonehead folks know how to teach kids about the environment and how we’re all connected. Buying their DVDs also supports nonprofit Planet Protector organizations, like IPPL.

As the Boneheads like to say, “It’s your planet, too!”

Here’s to the Howler Monkeys!

Meet some naughty boys and girls: Howlers—and their forest world. Read about their families, And their lives high in the trees.

A fun poem is where you’ll start, And you’ll see great primate art. Plus you’ll learn some monkey facts: Howlers do like to relax!

Kids in pre-school through grade two, They’ll know the right thing to do. Read the book and shout along, “Woo-hoo-hoo!”—the howlers’ song!
Taking Care of Primates—Now and Forever

Since our founding in 1973, IPPL has greatly benefited from caring supporters who have remembered IPPL in their wills.

You, too, can help us ensure that future generations will also have the opportunity to know and love a world in which primates are protected—where those in the wild will be able to live free from fear of abuse at human hands, and where those remaining in captivity will have access to expert, loving care.

Thanks to the foresight of many of our departed supporters, IPPL has been able to accomplish many wonderful things to improve the lives of the primates we cherish:

- Providing the best possible care for the special gibbons at our Headquarters Sanctuary.
- Giving support to primate rescue centers overseas, in countries where primates are native.
- Assisting grassroots wildlife groups in their efforts to promote concern for primates.
- Carrying out investigations of primate trafficking and abuse worldwide.
- Doing outreach in the community and at our education center to share with others the plight of the world’s primates.

By making a legacy gift to IPPL, you will ensure that IPPL can continue to protect the primates you love. I hope that you will consider including IPPL in your estate plans, to ensure that primates in need will have our hard-working and experienced organization to stand by them now and in the future. Please contact us at IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA, or 843-871-2280 if you would like to discuss providing enduring help for IPPL. IPPL’s tax identification number is 51-0194013.

Thank you for your concern for IPPL’s future.

Shirley McGreal, IPPL Founder and Executive Director

IPPL Supporter’s Membership/Donation Form

If you have received this magazine and are not currently an IPPL member, you can help sustain the important work of IPPL on behalf of the world’s primates by contributing your financial support. By sending in a membership contribution, you will be sure to continue receiving thrice-yearly issues of IPPL News. You may also donate online, if you wish, on IPPL’s secure Web site (www.ippl.org). All donations are welcome!

Please accept my contribution to support the work of IPPL. I have enclosed the following donation:

☐ $20 regular membership  ☐ $50 sustaining membership  ☐ Other amount: $_____ (membership)
☐ $100 patron membership  ☐ $10 student/senior membership  ☐ Other amount: $_____ (one time donation)
☐ I will be paying via a check or money order made payable to IPPL.
☐ I will be paying via credit card (circle): Visa  MasterCard  AMEX  Discover

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Primate Paraphernalia!

**IPPL Baseball Cap:**
- 100% cotton; khaki; adjustable
- Cost: US$12 (US)/US$16 (overseas)

**Mountain Gorilla T-Shirt:**
- 100% cotton; black
- Sizes: Adult XXL
- Cost: US$15 (US)/US$22 (overseas)

**Multi-Lemur T-Shirt:**
- 100% cotton; brown
- Sizes: Adult M, L
- Cost: US$15 (US)/US$22 (overseas)

**Multi-Monkey T-Shirt:**
- 100% cotton; gray
- Sizes: Adult M, L, XL, XXL
- Cost: US$15 (US)/US$22 (overseas)

**Gibbon**
- Notecards:
  - 12 cards and envelopes, 3 each of 4 IPPL gibbons (Arun Rangsi, Courtney, Igor, and Tong)
- Cost: US$10 (US)/US$14 (overseas)

**IPPL Gibbon T-Shirt:**
- 100% cotton; green
- Shirts feature 3 IPPL gibbons: Arun Rangsi, who came to IPPL as a baby from a biomedical lab; Igor, who spent 26 lonely years in research; and Beanie, who was blinded by illness.
- Sizes: Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL; Child S, M, L
- Cost: Adult US$15 (US)/US$22 (overseas)
- Child US$12 (US)/US$16 (overseas)

**Orangutan Baby T-Shirt:**
- 100% cotton; brown
- Sizes: Adult M, L, XL; Child S, M, L
- Cost: Adult US$15 (US)/US$22 (overseas)
- Child US$12 (US)/US$16 (overseas)

**IPPL Baseball Cap:**
- 100% cotton; khaki; adjustable
- Cost: US$12 (US)/US$16 (overseas)

**IPPL Gibbon T-Shirt:**
- 100% cotton; green
- Shirts feature 3 IPPL gibbons: Arun Rangsi, who came to IPPL as a baby from a biomedical lab; Igor, who spent 26 lonely years in research; and Beanie, who was blinded by illness.
- Sizes: Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL; Child S, M, L
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**IPPL NEWS**

www.ippl.org

May 2010
Adopt an IPPL Gibbon!

Each of the many gibbons living at IPPL Headquarters deserves a happy life. Many of IPPL’s residents have come to the sanctuary after years in research, as pets, or in sub-standard living conditions. By adopting an IPPL gibbon, you help to ensure that your chosen animal (and all the IPPL gibbons) will continue to get the best care possible: a quiet, peaceful life in sunny South Carolina, living in spacious enclosures with their mates, and eating only fresh, natural foods. For a donation of $15 or $25 per month for at least six months, you will receive the following:

- A signed Certificate of Gibbon Guardianship.
- A large glossy photograph of your gibbon.
- A biographical sketch of your gibbon.
- An IPPL sanctuary fact sheet.
- A gibbon fact sheet.
- An IPPL window cling.
- A quarterly update on your gibbon.

In addition, if you choose to adopt a gibbon at the $25-per-month level, IPPL will send you one of our forest-green T-shirts featuring several IPPL gibbons.

**And remember: adoptions make wonderful gifts that will last all year!**

---

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For information about adopting your gibbon through a monthly automatic checking account withdrawal, or if you have other questions, please call us at 843-871-2280, or send us an e-mail ([info@ippl.org](mailto:info@ippl.org)).

You can also adopt a gibbon on our Web site: go to [www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org) and click on the “Adopt an IPPL Gibbon” link.

Please mail your application to: IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA; or fax it to 843-871-7988.
IPPL Gibbons Currently Available for Adoption

**Tong** belongs to a different species from most of IPPL's gibbons. She is a yellow-cheeked crested gibbon and was wild-born in her native Vietnam probably around 1970. When she was an infant, she was sold as a pet to an American serviceman stationed in Vietnam; her mother may have been one of that nation's many wild animals that succumbed to Agent Orange or other hazards of war. When Tong's owner left the country, Tong remained in the care of his servants. Unfortunately, the servants did not know much about gibbon nutrition, so Tong developed rickets, a deforming bone disease. Eventually, in 1973, Tong was transferred to the protection of newly-founded IPPL, and she has been a part of the family ever since. By adopting Tong, you’ll share in IPPL’s commitment to lifelong care for beautiful apes like her.

**Arun Rangsi** was born in 1979 at a California research laboratory. Abandoned by his mother at birth, he was raised with a substitute mother made of wire to which he clung. Then the laboratory lost the funding for its program, and IPPL Founder Shirley McGreal, acting on a tip-off, rescued him from possible euthanasia. Once he arrived at IPPL’s sanctuary, his physical and mental condition greatly improved, thanks to a good diet and lots of love. Today Arun Rangsi lives happily with Shanti, another former laboratory gibbon. To keep this sweet, gentle ape happy and healthy, we’d love for you to adopt him.

**Courtney** was born at IPPL on 10 January 2002, the result of a failed vasectomy. When she was just 12 days old, her mother rejected her, leaving the little 12-ounce infant with a terribly mangled leg. Thanks to the skill of our veterinarian and months of attention from Courtney’s special nannies, her injuries have healed remarkably well. She has had minor follow-up surgery, but is nonetheless extremely active. If you saw her leaping around, you would hardly believe how badly she had been hurt. Since she is now mature, she has accepted a gibbon companion to share her life, our gentle lab gibbon Whoop-Whoop—but she still enjoys regular visits from her human friends. We hope you’ll consider adopting this spunky and determined little ape.

**Igor** was born in the wilds of Thailand some time in the 1950s. Most likely his mother was shot and he himself kidnapped while still an infant. Eventually, he was sold to an animal exporter who shipped Igor to the United States to live in a laboratory. Igor spent a total of 26 years in different labs. At some point early in his “career,” he developed a bizarre and distressing behavior: he became a self-mutilator, savagely biting his own arms whenever he caught sight of another gibbon. As a result, he was forced to live isolated behind black Plexiglas. In 1987, Igor was allowed to “retire” after his years of service. Since arriving at IPPL, where he lives in a special house within earshot of IPPL’s other gibbons, he has not attacked himself once. Please think about adopting this wonderful, resilient fellow.
Meet IPPL’s Scrappy!

Scrappy and his mate Uma reached IPPL on 31 March 2007. Both have honey-brown coats that glisten in the sun. Scrappy is a lanky gibbon with noticeably discolored teeth, which are probably due to a poor diet in his early years. He’s a curious contrast with his lovely mate Uma, whose face is framed by a gorgeous mane of fur.

The pair had been confiscated from a pet owner in Illinois (a totally unsuitable climate for a gibbon) by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent who found them living in the man’s backyard. Their owner had apparently acquired them from a Florida animal dealer—probably illegally, since gibbons are on the Endangered Species List and cannot be sold.

Scrappy can be quite naughty. During our Members’ Meeting this past April, he stole the nametag hanging around the neck of IPPL animal caregiver Noreen Laemers and “autographed” it with his teeth. And he’s not always cooperative about going indoors at night. He often teases our caregivers by going up to the entrance to his night quarters so they think they’ve outwitted him. Then he sits there, just outside, and won’t budge—until they show him a slice of wheat bread, which he loves.

But he can be unexpectedly sweet, too. When his favorite humans come for a visit, Scrappy squeals with glee.

IPPL: Who We Are

IPPL is an international grassroots wildlife protection organization. It was founded in 1973 by Dr. Shirley McGreal. Our mission is to promote the conservation and protection of all nonhuman primates, great and small.

IPPL has been operating a primate sanctuary in Summerville, SC, since 1977. There, 33 gibbons live in happy retirement. IPPL is also proud to help support wildlife groups and primate rescue centers in countries where primates are native.

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